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Message Text

SECRET

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70
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /066 W
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O 212036Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7209

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6177

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: MY CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT VIDELA AT CASA ROSADA THIS MORNING AT 11:15 AND SPENT ALMOST 1 1/2 HOURS WITH HIM. A REPORT ON OUR DISCUSSION OF US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS--ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE--WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL. POINTS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. PRESIDENT VIDELA APOLOGIZED AND SAID HE WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO GIVE ME THE NAME OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE GENERAL MIRO AS SEVERAL RADIO AND PRESS REPORTS HRE INDICATED THIS MORNING. HE SAID HE OPED TO HAVE THE NAME SOON AND WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (NOTE: MRS. MUSICH CALLED MY WIFE THIS MORNING BEFORE FOLLOWING HER HUSBAND TO WASHINGTON. SHE EXPRESSED SORROW UPON CUTTING SHORT THEIR ASSIGNMENT, AND SAID HER ONLY REGRET WAS THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION).

3. GWENDA MAE LOKEN CASE. I DISCUSSED THE LOKEN CASE WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, POINTING OUT TO HIM THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SHE IS BEING HELD AND THE FACT THAT SHE IS PREGNANT. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED THAT INTERIOR MINISTER HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TO BE TERMINATED
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QUICKLY, I.E. FOR THERE TO BE A SPEEDY TRIAL AND SENTENCING.

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WHEN THAT IS DONE, HE ASSURED ME, SHE WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY UNDER ORDER OF EXECUTIVE DECREE.

4. PATRICIA ERB CASE. I ALSO PRESSED THE PRESIDENT FOR ANY NEWS CONCERNING PATRICIA ERB. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT GOA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY TRACE OF HER AND HAS NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, TO STAY IN CONTACT AND TO NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. HE INDICATED THAT WHEN SHE IS FOUND (IF SHE IS FOUND) GOA WILL EXPELL HER FROM THE COUNTRY (AND HE IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD DO SO BEFORE ANY JUDICIAL PROCESS MIGHT BE INITIATED).
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